

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
September 20, 2026
A Season for Peace



Rembrandt
Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard

Opening Sentences

- We come to rest in God's holy presence, to remember God's wonderful works, to feast on God's sustaining Word.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or in spirit for the Call to Worship.

We will sing to God

and bless God's name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

We will declare God's mighty acts

and celebrate God's abundant goodness.

We will worship together,

proclaiming God's righteousness.

Hymn O Sing to the Lord (v. 1 in English, v. 2-5 in Spanish)

GG #637

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios. (3x)

Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa. (3x)

Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

Es él quien nos da el Espíritu Santo. (3x)

Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

Jesús es Señor! Amén, aleluya! (3x)

Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

Prayer of the Day

God of every blessing,

we remember the works of your hands:

the days you save us,

the people who embrace us,

the moments we feel free,

and the dreams you give us.

All of it is from you, Faithful One.

Sustain us with your strength,

that we may be surprised

by the miraculous gift of life itself. Amen.



Call to Confession

Because we do not always live our lives
in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,
let us acknowledge before God both our need for grace
and our confidence that it will be given.

Prayer of Confession

**Generous God, you come to us again and again,
no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives.
Calling to us, gathering us in,
you give us your good work to do,
daily bread, and boundless grace.
Increase in us a generous spirit
so that we may do your work with joy
alongside others whom you also love.
We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives,
but also in the lives of other people,
even those we had not imagined would be included
in the kingdom you are bringing.
Align us with your ways
and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy
as good news for all people.**

A moment of silent confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving,
grace beyond our ability to earn it.
**God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ;
therefore we will live as grateful and loving people!
Thanks be to God!**

Act of Praise

O for a World, v. 1

GG #372

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

Time with the Younger Church

Life of the Church

Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God, how blessed are those
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit
so that we may glorify you
in the company of the faithful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said] “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

GG #716

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Prayers of the People

With one mind in Christ,
and one heart in the Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord
of heaven and earth.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus,
we pray for the church . . .
Give us joy
in our faith and life together,
sharing in the hope of the gospel,
and living as a sign of your saving love.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth . . .
Show us it is not too late to receive your mercy.
Shelter your creatures from scorching heat;
shower upon us your healing grace.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations . . .
Let the last be first, and the first be last.
Let the high and mighty learn humility;
let the lowly and despised find dignity.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community . . .
Inspire us, by your great generosity,
to help those who are hungry,
who lack safe homes,
or work long hours for little reward.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones . . .
Give hope and healing to all who suffer—
especially those who are consumed by anger
and those who wish to end their own lives.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enable us, O God, by the power of your Spirit,
to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the gospel,
to the glory of the name that is above all names,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has taught us to pray together, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...



Nelly Bube
Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

Invitation to the Offering

Whether we have much or only a little,
we can share our daily bread so that all will be fed.
As we have received, let us give.
In the vineyard of the Lord,
let us bring our tithes and offerings.

This morning we are also receiving gifts to the church's Local Assistance ministry, which provides support for our neighbors.

Offertory

Act of Dedication

O for a World, v. 2

GG #372

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

Offertory Prayer

God of the harvest,
we are privileged to be counted
among those whom you have called,
graced to have been given your work to do,
blessed to receive more than we will ever earn.
Accept, we pray, our thanksgivings and offerings,
and do what you choose
with what already belongs to you.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Hymn Light Dawns on a Weary World GG #79

Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.
*Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands;
 the dry lands gush with springs;
 the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
 as all the world in wonder echoes **shalom**.*

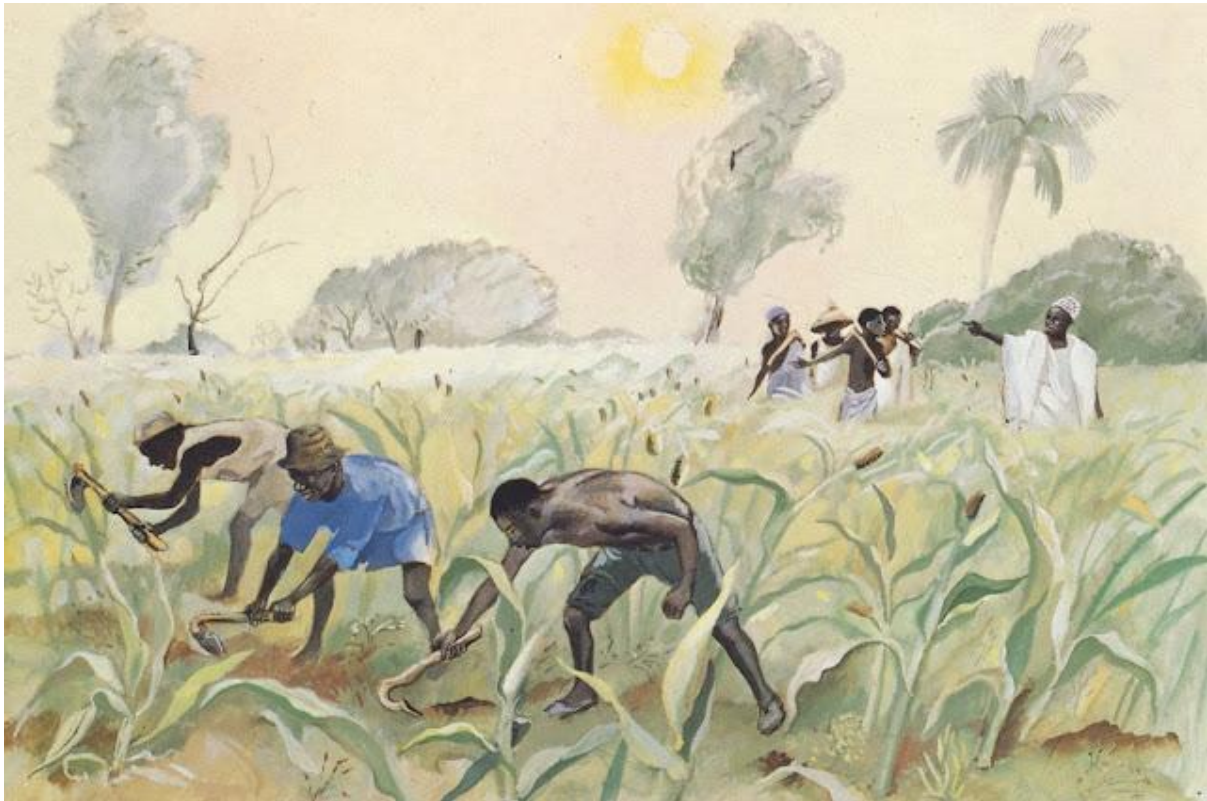
Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*
Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response O for a World, v. 5 GG #372

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Postlude



Jesus MAFA; Christian art from Cameroon
The Late-Arriving Workers

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Kelly Leonard

John Adam Tabali

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco-Garza

FPC Chancel Choir

FPC McAllen Contact Information: 104 S. 12th Street; McAllen, TX 78501

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1029; McAllen, TX 78505

Church phone: 956-682-2836

website: <https://www.mcallenfpc.org/>

Pastor: fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com

Church Administrator: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net